

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shigemasa SATO et al.

Group Art Unit: 1795

Application No.: 10/539,778

Examiner: S. SCULLY

Filed: June 20, 2005

Docket No.: 124406

For: ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE OPERATING CONTROL  
METHOD

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the July 14, 2008 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-8, with traverse.

Once patentability has been established, the fact that Groups I-VI each share a novel special technical feature will be confirmed. As such, claims 9-17 (Groups II-V) should be rejoined with claims 1-8 (Group I) at this time, and thus Applicants request that the Patent Office remove the present Restriction Requirement and examine claims 1-17 together.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-17 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the

merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC:JDT/hs

Date: August 13, 2008

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